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Stanford speech

Death threat to Ellsberg

By VICKI GRAHAM

Daniel Ellsberg, speaking in spite of an assassination threat, told 1,500 persons at Memorial Church Friday night the sees no grounds for Stanford to fire revolutionary Prof. H. Bruce Franklin.

Ellsberg said he found "nothing in the majority report by a faculty committee to criticize in Franklin's behavior—much less to dismiss him for."

He said he does not know Franklin personally.

Ellsberg has publicly admitted leaking the Pentagon Papers to the press. He was indicted last week by a federal grand jury in Los Angeles on charges of conspiring to steal and distribute the papers.

He was joined at Stanford by his codefendant, Anthony Russo, and by Russo's bride of several minutes, the former Katherine Barkley, a long-time Stanford activist.

They addressed a forum on "The Pentagon, the War and the University," sponsored by the Stanford Faculty Political Action Group.

At 7:30 p.m., the Stanford switchboard received an anonymous threat that Ellsberg would be assassinated, according to Santa Clara County sheriff's deputies.

The caller sounded like a male, about 25, who said he called because he did not want the people around Ellsberg to be injured, Sgt. Tom Colonni said.

POLICE WATCH

Numerous Stanford police and deputies stood by in the crowded church and patrolled the campus.

There were no incidents.

When informed of the threat before the program, Ellsberg decided to go ahead with his speech scheduled for later in the program. He received two standing ovations and intermittent applause. He left after 25

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minutes to fly to Los Angeles to attend the funeral of a friend.

"Someone proposed to assassinate me tonight," Ellsberg said softly from a speaker's table in front of the altar. "That's something I'm not very bothered by, but it bothers my wife very much and I don't propose to lay this on her . . .

"To assassinate me, I think, would not be the way to getting the kind of society that someone wants," he said.

Signs carried in the church read, "Bruce on, DOD (Department of Defense) Off," "Free Ellsberg, Free Franklin, Free Ourselves."

A faculty advisory board last week recommended 5 to 2 that Franklin be fired for his alleged leadership in campus disruptions last spring. The administration is trying to dismiss Franklin, an assistant professor of English and a Maoist revolutionary.

SAME VIEW

Ellsberg said he shares Franklin's perception of Stanford University's complicity in the war through its trustees' ties to war industries, its research and the recruitment of students by firms doing war-related work.

"The advisory board takes the position that Franklin cannot come into the proper relationship with the university," Ellsberg said. "It doesn't seem to accept the possibility that the university itself might change.

"There remains the inescapable necessity of dramatically changing people's minds and institutions so there cannot be such an obtuse and fatuous majority report as I read today."

A sit-in at a computer center engaged in war-related computation could be "an entirely appropriate way" to change the complicity of universities in war research, Ellsberg said.

Franklin was accused by the Stanford administration of urging students to take over the computation center which was running a program for an amphibious assault plan. He also was accused of interfering with a police order to disperse.

Ellsberg commented that the war in Vietnam "is winding down about as fast as my indictment is winding down."

'BAFFLED'

He said he was "baffled" about how to end the war and urged a discussion of tactics.

"I still question that dynamite or trashing does dramatize the opposition to a bloody-minded war that has been waged by my former colleagues and at one time by me," Ellsberg said.

"You don't change the war by changing the President — we've done that. You don't change it by changing parties — we've done that. Not by getting Congress against it — the Senate already is. Not by changing the breadth of public opinion — 73 per cent of the American people want an end to the war," Ellsberg said.

RUSSO'S COMMENTS

Russo commented that "there's very little difference" between the struggles on university campuses and the war in Vietnam.

He said that "think tanks" such as the Stanford Research Institute and the Rand Corp. are "space age tools of the oppressor" because of their war-related studies.

The Rand Corp., Russo said, has completed a study on the assassination of John F. Kennedy which should be made public.

He called President Nixon "Warden Nixon" and said he has made "political pawns" of the prisoners of war held by Hanoi. The Nixon administration has spent $25 million on a Madison Avenue campaign "to shine up the image of POWs" and rally the American people in their support, he said.